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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Washington, D.C. 20231

John P. DeLuca  
WATSON COLE GRINDLE WATSON, P.L.L.C.  
1400 K Street, N.W., 10th Fl.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-2477

Dear Mr. DeLuca,

This is in response to your request received 30 October 1998 inquiring about the status of U.S. application 08/973,306 filed 27 May 1997. According to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records, the application is currently pending and in processing in the U.S. Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US). Applicant will be notified shortly concerning the results of processing in the DO/EO/US.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally Gardner-Lane".

Sally Gardner-Lane  
PCT Detailee  
PCT Legal Office

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer D. Bahr".

Jennifer D. Bahr  
PCT Legal Examiner  
PCT Legal Office

SGL/JDB:sgl

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